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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/069,815

Examiner

Katherine A. Bareford

Applicant(s)

HALMSCHLAGER ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after final response of Dec. 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 May 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. In the After Final Response of Dec. 20, 2004, applicant has provided arguments and evidence overcoming the outstanding rejections. Specifically, (1) applicant has overcome the outstanding 35 USC 112 rejection of claims 20-39 as the meaning of the term "substantially" (independent claims 20 and 30). Applicant has indicated that it would be understood to mean "to a great or significant extent", "for the most part; essentially"; as shown by the cited dictionary definition. This definition corresponds to the movement direction shown in figures 2 and 3, and thus is supported by the specification as originally filed. (2) Applicant has further overcome the 35 USC 103 rejection of the claims. As "substantially" is now understood to mean "to a great or significant extent", "for the most part; essentially", the reference to Laapotti (US 5951821) is no longer understood to show "substantial" movement of the support roll in the web direction (as shown in figures 5 and 6), as the reference only shows a small percentage of the movement being in the web direction.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art is to Laapotti (US 6372090) and Laapotti (US 5951821) (hereinafter Laapotti '821). As discussed in the Final Rejection of October 15, 2004, the references, in combination, teach or suggest a method and apparatus for the application of a viscid medium coating to at least one side of a pre-dried material web moving in a web direction, routing the web through a press nip and supporting the web with an extensible surface, which can be a belt, substantially without free draw after the routing step, with the extensible support surface being extensible in the web direction.

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The extensible support surface is partially supported by a roll. However, the references do not teach or suggest the roll being laterally movable substantially in the web direction as is now claimed. As “substantially” is now understood to mean “to a great or significant extent”, “for the most part; essentially” (as discussed in paragraph 1 above), the reference to Laapotti ‘821 is no longer understood to show “substantial” movement of the support roll in the web direction (as shown in figures 5 and 6), as the reference only shows a small percentage of the movement being in the web direction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine A. Bareford whose telephone number is (571) 272-1413. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(6:30-4:00) with the First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Shrive P. Beck can be reached on (571) 272-1415. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Other inquiries can be directed to the Tech Center 1700 telephone number at (571) 272-1700.

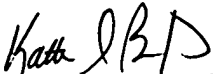
Furthermore, information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for

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unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


KATHERINE BAREFORD
PRIMARY EXAMINER